

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 12, 18, 24, and 27 are amended in this response to replace the term “preventing” with “reducing the incidence of.” Further, claims 31, 32, 34, and 35 are amended to correct an obvious error wherein the term “by weight” was omitted. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 12-14, 16-20, 22, 24-25, 27-28 and 30-35 will remain pending in the application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Applicants have amended claims 12, 18, 24, and 27 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As described above, the claims have been amended to replace the term “preventing” with “reducing the incidence of” as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In acknowledging the Examiner’s withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, Applicants submit that the newly amended claims further distinguish the art of record such that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

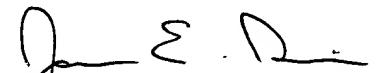
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot by this amendment. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 446-7683.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is required by the timely submission of this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. Further, if there is any other fee deficiency or overpayment of

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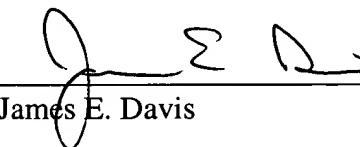
any fees in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or credit such overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on **March 30, 2005** with sufficient postage as first class mail (including Express Mail per MPEP §512), and addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**.


James E. Davis